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officers, instructors, 1826--1904 A HISTORY
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CHAPTER III.

OPENING OF THE COLLEGE IN PHILADELPHIA—THE OPENING CEREMONIES
—DR. GREEN'S PRAYER—RHEES' REMARKS—BEGINNINGS OF THE HOSPITAL—BEGINNING OF LECTURES—ROLL OF THE FIRST CLASS—THE STRUGGLE FOR LEGISLATION TO ALLOW THE CONFERRING OF DIPLOMAS—TEXT OF THE ACT.



WHEN the Jefferson Medical College was founded under the patronage of the parent institution at Canonsburg, the latter assumed only the moral support of its offspring, and expressly stated in the articles of union that the medical school should have no claim on its funds. No such claim ever was made, or sought to be made. McClellan and Eberle had accomplished their great object when the school was established, and when they had so neatly outwitted opposing influences, and when they were received, regularly and lawfully, under the protecting arm of an authorized collegiate institution.

It should be noted that the Jefferson College at Canonsburg was something more than a mere collegiate institution. It was in fact a denominational seminary of learning, founded and largely supported by Scotch-Presbyterians, and to be in any manner allied to such a parent body was regarded a great honor. Such it was, and no action on the part of the managers of the Medical Department in Philadelphia ever was a source of regret to the governing authorities of the parent body during the years in which the alliance was continued. It is true that the early history of the medical school was accompanied with many vicissitudes, and that strife entered into the councils of its Faculty, but in the course of a few years it rose above all contention and took its proper place among the great institutions of the country.

When the first Medical Faculty was completed, a somewhat novel condition was created. The Trustees of Jefferson College had given the Medical Department an existence only—with the promise of moral support—and it

devolved upon the body of Professors constituting the Faculty to maintain their institution, regulate its finances, and stand responsible for its continuance. This was the understanding, and this the founders were willing to do; but the situation was unusual in that the Faculty members were vested with authority as instructors in medicine and also with the powers of absolute managers, subject only to the *pro forma* approval of the Jefferson College trustees.

A precedent was established, and the proceeding was made the subject of comment. There were those, too, who declared the alliance to be unlawful, and it was intimated that the medical college would not be able to license its graduates and confer the doctor's degree. In due season these questions were met; but not without serious opposition was the Jefferson College allowed to grant diplomas in its medical branch. In the somewhat spirited controversy that arose over this right the Trustees and Faculty of the Jefferson College stood loyal to the cause for which the medical college was battling, and in the procurement of an enabling act from the legislature the assistance of the trustees was of great benefit to the interests of the medical department.

When the Medical Faculty was fully vested with its authority from the parent body, its members promptly proceeded to perfect arrangements for opening the school in Philadelphia. The first regular meeting was held December 20, 1824, with Dr. Eberle in the chair, and Dr. Rhees as secretary. On motion Dr. Rhees was appointed Dean of the Faculty, and Drs. Eberle, Beattie, and Green were made a committee to procure "the building, formerly the Tivoli theater, on Prune street (now 518 Locust), near Washington square, and owned by George Shaw." This committee was directed to secure a lease of the property for a period of four years and three months, from January 1, 1825, at an annual rental of \$550.

This was an important proceeding on the part of the faculty, as the negotiations resulted in establishing the first home of the Jefferson Medical College in the old theater building. The lease was executed by George Shaw

"Gentleman," owner of the property, on the one part, and John Eberle, George McClellan, B. Rush Rhees, and Francis S. Beattie, "Doctors of Medicine," and Jacob Green, "Gentleman," of the other part. The instrument bore date December 31, 1824.

The lease having been duly executed, the Faculty set about the work of preparing the building for its intended use. To Drs. Green and Beattie was assigned the duty of securing the services of a carpenter while Dr. Eberle was directed to employ a mason; and these three were designated a building committee, of which Green was the treasurer. At the same time each member of the faculty was assessed the sum of twenty dollars to carry forward the repair work.

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In the meantime the medical school in the old location was kept moving by Rhees and McClellan, and between their regular duties as instructors and the equally important duty of preparing the theater building for occupancy they found themselves full of business. But they were not unmindful of the interests of the school, and at all their meetings the subjects of teaching and building were fully discussed. The minutes disclose that at a meeting in January, 1825, a plan of remodeling the interior of the theater building was submitted and approved, and the next business transacted was the adoption of a resolution that "in order to advance the interests of the school, an address be delivered on some day prior to the close of the ordinary session of the medical department of the University, explanatory of the objects and purposes for which a new school has been created;" and further, "that Dr. Rhees be appointed to deliver this address."

On March 8, 1825, the "hall of the Jefferson Medical School" was opened. We have not to rely on tradition or imperfect faculty minutes for this information. On the occasion mentioned, Professor B. Rush Rhees, Dean of the Faculty, issued a printed pamphlet containing a concise account of the event, together with the opening prayer offered by Rev. Ashbel Green, later president of Princeton College, and also the principal address delivered by Dr. Rhees himself.

Thus the opening of the infant institution was accompanied with solemn and impressive ceremony although devoid of all pomp and display, and wholly in keeping with purposes of the mother institution at Canonsburg. This was quite out of the custom even of that day—the opening of a medical college with prayer service—but it was not less appropriate; many petitions of this kind were offered in its behalf during its early connection with the parent institution, and afterward it lived through “fear and trembling” for several years before it became firmly planted on a secure and lasting foundation.

The substance of Dr. Green’s remarks and the petition so fervently offered up in behalf of the institution, are here given as an important part of the service of a day interesting to the whole medical profession, and also a most interesting historical event.

REMARKS AND PRAYER.

“This respectable audience will understand that the gentlemen at whose expense this house has been prepared for a course of medical lectures, have expressed their desire that it should be opened with prayer; and have requested me to lead the devotional service on the occasion. With this request I am now to comply—believing, as I do, that every lawful and important enterprise ought to be commenced with imploring the assistance and benediction of God, without which it can neither prosper nor be useful. Let us pray:

“Almighty God, our Heavenly Father! We adore Thee as our Creator, Preserver, Benefactor and Judge. We look to Thee as God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and through Him, as the God of grace and mercy to us, Thy dependent and sinful creatures. In His name, and for His sake, we implore Thy grace, to render us duly sensible of our great unworthiness, and truly penitent for all our sins. Grant, O most merciful God! that being interested by faith in all the benefits of our Redeemer’s purchase—being cleansed by His blood, clothed with His righteousness, sanctified by His spirit, and formed into His likeness, we may be restored to Thy favour; become the children of Thy love; be made the partakers of Thy grace and guidance, through all the vicissitudes of this mortal life; and the candidates for a glorious immortality beyond the grave.

“We have been taught, O Lord, in Thy holy word, ‘in all our ways to acknowledge God, and that He will direct our paths.’ Believing this, Thy sacred declaration, we look up to Thee on this occasion, for Thy smiles and blessing on the institution whose operations are to be commenced and prosecuted in this house. We pray that Thy benediction may ever rest, both on

those who shall here impart and those who shall here receive, instruction in medical science. We pray that whatever relates to the healing art, may be so communicated within these walls, as never to contravene, but always to favour and promote the doctrines and duties taught and inculcated in the volume of Thy revealed will.

"Blessed Saviour! Who, in the days of Thy humiliation, didst go about 'healing all manner of sickness, and all manner of disease among the people,' prosper, we beseech Thee, an institution which looks to an object that claimed Thy marked attention and thus was sanctioned, and honoured, and recommended by Thy high example. Thy powers of healing, O Divine Saviour! were indeed miraculous, and we no longer expect their manifestation. But it is still Thine efficacious blessing, and that only, which can render successful the ordinary means employed for the restoration of health. Deeply sensible of this truth, may the teachers and the taught in this institution ever seek Thy blessing on all their professional skill and labours; and may they ever strive humbly to imitate Thee in all Thy inimitable perfections; that in so doing they may prove themselves to be Thy disciples, and may, at last, share in the great reward which Thou wilt confer on Thy faithful followers.

"Thus we commend to Thee, our God and Saviour, this infant institution; praying that while it shall be conducted in Thy fear, and according to Thy holy will, Thy countenance and favour extended towards it may insure its prosperity and its usefulness. And in like manner we beseech Thee to confer Thy blessing on all similar institutions wherever found; and on all establishments and undertakings which have for their object the promotion of knowledge, truth, and piety. Make them all, we pray Thee, instrumental in meliorating the condition of the human family; till ignorance, oppression, misery, and vice shall flee before the dawning of that glorious day, so long the subject of prophecy and prayer, when knowledge and truth, peace and happiness, righteousness and holiness shall extend their benign influence over the abodes of man from the rising even to the setting of the sun.

"Our Father Who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Professor Rhee's introductory address was filled with interesting thoughts and suggestions, but was too long for full reproduction in this chapter, hence a few excerpts must suffice for present purposes. In opening, he said:

"When individuals embark in new and important enterprises, justice to themselves and respect for the community of which they may be members demand a public and candid exposition of the motives by which they are actuated, the objects they propose to attain, and the means by which they purpose to attain them. This is, also, more obviously incumbent on them when the undertaking in which they are about to engage is one of general

interest, and when those who may be affected by its success or failure are scattered over a wide and extensive range of country. Such is the character of the enterprise to which your attention is this morning called. The interest which it is calculated to awaken is not confined to my colleagues and myself. You are all interested in it to a greater or less degree, in proportion as you feel more or less concerned in the advancement of a liberal and honourable profession, and as you are more or less solicitous to promote the welfare of those who have consecrated their lives to the extension of its usefulness, and the elevation of its character."

In speaking of the parent college at Canonsburg, and of its relation to the medical branch in Philadelphia, Rhees said:

"In the year 1802 a literary and scientific institution, founded in Canonsburg, was chartered by the legislative assembly of this state, under the title of Jefferson College. Endowed with all the privileges and immunities granted to and enjoyed by other similar institutions,—favored also with the occasional patronage of the state, this college advanced gradually to a condition not less flourishing, and to a degree of reputation not less elevated than its sister colleges, most of whom had attained to much riper years. Such was found to be her state in the month of June last when a meeting of the board of trustees, to whose care her interests were committed, took place; and when it was determined by them to avail themselves of a right which had not hitherto been exercised, viz., the right of conferring medical degrees. That the sphere of usefulness of the institution might be extended, at the same time that this privilege was enjoyed, it was also determined to constitute a faculty of medicine, in connection with the original foundation. To carry the latter purpose into effect, in such manner as to secure the salutary objects for which it was projected, was, however, obviously impossible at the seat of the college. It became, therefore, necessary to devise some mode by which its prerogative might be exercised, and the views of the board answered. That which was adopted is not less characteristic of zeal for the promotion of knowledge than it is of the liberality of sentiment ever met with among men whose minds are not fettered by local prejudice—of men who dare to venture abroad to do good, and to encourage others to engage in the same delightful employment. Philadelphia attracted their attention as offering the best opportunities to those who were seeking knowledge, and promising the most ready co-operating force that could be enlisted with them, in the diffusion of it. Feeling therefore convinced that it mattered not where the tree they were about to plant was placed, as its fruits were to be for general use, and assured that *here* only there was a prospect of its thriving, they did not hesitate in their determination.

"If it be asked why we could not individually as well as conjointly enter on the performance of that which we considered to be our duty, our reply is brief, for none will ask this question who have consulted the character of our race, or the history of our profession. What is man in his solitary

state? A feeble, useless creature. What is man when united to his fellow-man? A being powerful, well equipped and armed against every danger. * * * In our own profession, too, what have individuals effected when they have stepped forth alone? To our professional brethren of our own city, we appeal for an answer to this question; for *they* have heard of deserted desks, and empty rooms, of lectures begun, and prematurely ended. From a knowledge of these truths, both as respects our profession and our character as men we have chosen to combine in the manner just related, rather than to labor separately in a field which yields its harvest only to those who are willing to toil together. Guided here again by the 'E pluribus unum' of our commonwealth—out of many we have constituted one faculty.

"The novelty of a connection between a faculty of medicine and an institution remote from it, will be found, on impartial examination, to heighten its interest. * * * We can indeed discover in the institution of an eastern department of a western college, the commencement of a new and important era in our professional annals. No longer will our western brethren be separated from us. They will feel that they have the rights of citizens, in common with ourselves, and they will feel, therefore, that it is their interest as well as ours to send down to our plains the fruits they may gather among their mountains. We shall thus travel on hand in hand, in the great work of professional improvement, until finally one spirit will guide us all—one code of ethics govern us—one grand professional confederacy be formed, of which we shall all feel that we are deeply interested members.

"Can it be objected against our undertaking, that the existence of two similar institutions in the same city will awaken discord in the ranks of our profession? Let those who imagine that this will be the case consider whether they are not doing injustice to the character of their profession, by the bare supposition that its members cannot perform their duty without strife; that when their hands are stretched forth, they must, of necessity, strike at the peace of each other. We repel from *ourselves* the charge conveyed in the thought. We are not hostile to the interests of our fellows. On the contrary we feel that our interests are identified with theirs, whether they dwell among us or elsewhere. We will not invade the harmony of our profession, nor assail our neighbours, for we know that in no condition is dishonour more surely the result of an attempt to establish reputation and fortune on the ruins of another's fame, than in that in which our profession has placed us. To all our brethren we therefore most cheerfully extend the hand of fellowship, trusting that as we feel towards them, they will also ever feel towards us, and that no ungenerous hostility on their part will ever compel us to assume a similar attitude, and to stand forth, as we shall with manly boldness, in our own defence.

"What shall the community, of which we are members, reap from the undertaking? The employment of an additional organized body in the advancement of science, on which its health and happiness so materially depend, cannot be deemed uninteresting to any of its members. Who can say to what new discoveries it may not give rise? Who can say what mysteries it may not develop—what new truths it may not advance—what new energy it may

not impart to the arm of our profession? Who can say that the medical school here established may not at some future period send forth *him* who is destined to discover the means by which pestilence may be prevented; or *him* for whom it is reserved to guard future generations against that consuming fire which is now wasting away the energies of the strong, and preying on the beauty of the fair? Who can say that at some future period, in this *very hall*, that student may not be armed with knowledge, to whom the salvation of the nation's idol may not be committed, or on whom the rescue of a nation's host may depend. Frown not therefore on the enterprise in its infancy. Rather encourage those who are embarked in it, to go on fearlessly and actively, that others may be induced by their success to engage in similar undertakings.

"That the good wishes and the prayers of thousands of enlightened men are with us, is not the smallest ground of our confidence that we shall eventually prosper. Desirous also of receiving the blessing of the *poor man*, *he* shall be made the object of our special regard. Apartments are in preparation in the building in which you are assembled for the gratuitous distribution of medicine and counsel to such as are still capable of seeking them beyond their own homes. In the prosecution of this part of our design, we shall also be able to afford opportunities to those who attend our lectures, of witnessing many cases of medical and surgical disease.

"Here, my friends and fellow-citizens, I close the address to which your patient attention has been so long given, and here again allow me to repeat the pledge, that in the performance of our duty to each respective class into which you are divided we shall never forget that we are members of a liberal profession—that we are your *brethren*. As such we shall ever feel bound to your interests by the strongest ties, and ever pray for your happiness with the most fervent sincerity."

On January 27 the Faculty met and transacted necessary business; and this being done the members took an important advance step in the establishment of a new institution in connection with the college work. The resolution by which this was accomplished was in these words:

"Resolved, That in addition to their present arrangements, the committee be instructed to prepare an apartment to be used by the Dean as an office, *and to be also appropriated to the reception of indigent patients, whom it is hereby determined to supply with medicine gratuitously.*"

"By the foregoing resolution," says the record quoted, "the establishment of a permanent Infirmary in connection with the college is projected, although the regulations of said Infirmary are left for future consideration;" and again: "Resolved, That the preparation of the office and Infirmary be submitted to the care of Professors Green and Rhees, who, in conjunction with the building committee, are authorized to take such measures as may be thought proper to fit up the apartment."

This action on the part of an independent body of Professors was a new idea in college work. Whether the original suggestion leading to this result emanated from McClellan or from some of his colleagues is not now known. In his early private school he frequently held clinics, and their continuance under the new order of things was natural; but in the establishment of an infirmary, hospital, and operating department in connection with the school for medical instructions the Faculty of the Jefferson Medical College led the way in the history of medical colleges in America. It was but another evidence of the enterprise shown by this little handful of Professors constituting the Faculty, who acted entirely on their own responsibility, and at their own hazard and expense. If they achieved success, the glory was theirs, and if they failed, the loss was their own. This was the exact relation they bore to the institution.

In the latter part of April, 1825, it was determined to open the Hospital or Infirmary department on May 16 following. It is evident that the project had friends outside the Faculty, as the records show that Jacob Bigonet donated to the Hospital department medicinal articles to the amount of \$20, and that George Glentworth contributed material and supplies for the same purpose.

On April 20 the Faculty determined that the Infirmary might without difficulty be opened in the early part of the month of May; therefore it was resolved,

“That circulars be published setting forth that the Infirmary of the Jefferson Medical College will be opened for the reception of patients on the 16th of May, when all medical cases will be prescribed for by Dr. Eberle, and all of a surgical character attended to by Dr. McClellan between the hours of 5 and 6 P. M. every day, Sunday excepted; that Dr. Rhees be considered a permanent attendant in the Infirmary, and that Drs. Eberle and McClellan and Drs. Beattie and Smith should alternately attend as before prescribed for the period of one month.”

On the 9th day of May a patient was admitted to the Hospital department, and was there operated on by Dr. McClellan. On the 16th, the day of formal opening, six patients were prescribed for and received medicine;

and on the same day a register for this department was opened, showing the names and number of persons treated and operated on. This was the beginning of the history of the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, now regarded as one of the most complete institutions of the kind in the United States. It is the outgrowth of pioneer effort on the part of the first faculty, and is entitled to all the honor that has been accorded it.

In October the remodeled Tivoli Theater building was ready for occupancy. Previous to that time the faculty had kept the school together in the old quarters, but on account of limited accommodations and the pressure of other matters there was little attempt at regularity in the lectures until the removal to the new location.

Some writers of early Jefferson Medical College history have asserted that during this period the school was practically closed, owing to Faculty dissensions. This was not the case, for there was no disagreement among the Professors at that time, and even Dr. Klapp's early withdrawal from the Faculty was due to other causes than dissension among its members.

On October 15 the Faculty met to arrange for lectures. It was then determined that Dr. McClellan should first deliver his introductory lecture, and that thereafter all the Professors should have regular class hours. The record says that lectures were commenced by Dr. McClellan on the Thursday immediately preceding the first Monday in November; that he was followed on the succeeding days of the same week by his colleagues, and in the following week the several courses were fully entered upon by all the faculty.

Thus it was on the last Thursday in October, 1825, that the Jefferson Medical College was formally opened, in the building prepared for its occupancy, by George McClellan. The students regularly matriculated for the winter term numbered one hundred and nine, and included young men from fourteen states, two foreign countries, and the District of Columbia. It was the pioneer class in the history of the Jefferson Medical College, and as such, enjoying that especial distinction, a complete roll of its members reproduced here is appropriate.

- PENNSYLVANIA—Henry D. Smith, Robert John Dodd, John B. Ducomb, Lewis P. Thomson, Samuel Lehman Endress, Jacob M. Sherer, Thomas M. Maxwell, Charles Graff, David Hale, Charles Davis, John Evans, Peter Shannon, William Johnson, James Allison, Alexander Hamilton, John B. Brinton, William Means, George R. Morton, Robert Wray, Joseph Gardner, Jesse W. Griffiths, Nathan L. Hatfield, Charles M. Griffiths, Thomas J. Kitts, George Baldwin, Isaac C. Weidler, George Carll, G. Washington Mears, Thomas O. Goldsmith, John F. Stadiger, John Ramsey, Patrick Kelly, Thomas McAdam, Theophilus A. Wiley, Charles G. Snowden, John Ream, Philo Hamlin, Charles A. Luzenburg, Gamaliel Bailey, William Sharpe, Joseph Crane, Alexander Donaldson, Jacob G. Shock, James Adair, John Cunningham, Joseph Abbott, William McCleery, Jonathan Pounder, John S. Murdock, J. B. Stubbs, William Frazier, S. W. Henry, Isaac Bothrock, Andrew Thomson, John Orwig, James Galbraith, John Bibighaus, Horace Smith, Benjamin Shaw, Isaac Kline, Henry Zook, John R. Black, John Hambright.
- NEW YORK—Frederick A. Waldo, M. L. Knapp, Jacob P. Stickle, George Lee, Ezra W. Glezen, William Penniman.
- NEW JERSEY—Joseph T. Ward, Ralph Glover, William R. Hand, Edmund L. B. Wales, Nathaniel Dickinson, Joseph P. Elkinton, S. W. Githens, Jacob B. James, Edward Gough, Peter Q. Beekman.
- KENTUCKY—Atkinson Pelham.
- MASSACHUSETTS—James Swan, Daniel H. Gregg.
- SOUTH CAROLINA—Thomas W. Dick, James Ferris.
- DELAWARE—Edward C. Dingle, John Kinsey, Samuel Ruth, Lewis Springer.
- VERMONT—Joel Forster, George H. Parker.
- OHIO—Abner Marsh.
- CONNECTICUT—Benjamin B. Coit, Nathan Gallup.
- MARYLAND—Frederick Byer, James T. Bryan, Robert Fulton.
- VIRGINIA—George Tate, John C. Balfour, Patrick Kelly, John R. Hayden.
- EAST TENNESSEE—Alexander F. McKinney.
- MISSISSIPPI—David McRae, John McIntosh.
- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—L. B. Hunter.
- IRELAND—John Graham, Patrick Jordon, Samuel Gaylet, Francis King.
- GERMANY—Frederick William Herbst.

The College began its career in the Prune street building under conditions which were satisfactory to the Faculty. The names of more than one hundred matriculates were registered, and the Professors were encouraged to believe that the future would bring them substantial results in pecuniary returns. Now that the school was located in commodious apartments, the Faculty members were no longer troubled with the work of repair, and even

the custody of the building was placed in new hands; a janitor had been chosen, and was comfortably domiciled in the basement. The first incumbent of this office was one J. Holliday, who was employed in September, 1825, and who, under the resolution engaging his services, was required to attend upon the wants of the Faculty until November 1st without other pay than the privilege of occupying the front part of the cellar, as a residence; but during November he was to be paid twenty dollars. Janitor Holliday's official relation to the institution, however, was brief, for he was charged with insolence toward Professor Beattie, and was promptly dismissed.

During the winter session affairs progressed favorably, and the Faculty gave little attention to other matters than their duties as instructors. Business meetings were infrequent, but when the Professors met informally they discussed several subjects which were of vital importance to the interests of their institution. Among these, first, says one record, was the resort to legal counsel "on the questioned validity of the right of granting diplomas in medicine as claimed by the trustees of Jefferson College"; second, the steps taken to carry the question before the legislature of the State. The questions here raised were highly important. The Jefferson Medical College now had an existence as one of the departments of the Jefferson College at Canonsburg, but the right to grant diplomas in medicine was not only questioned, but was disputed. This was the first serious question which presented itself to the Faculty, and impelled that body to take counsel from Edward Ingersoll, then a leader of the Philadelphia bar; and his opinion was confirmed by that of J. Coudy, also a prominent lawyer of the city.

In the legal contest which soon followed, the question turned on the right of the Faculty of the Jefferson College at Canonsburg to grant diplomas to and confer degrees in medicine upon the graduates of the Jefferson Medical College. If such power did exist it must have been under the provisions of the charter which gave authority to the Faculty. Section IV of the act incorporating the Jefferson College provided in part as follows:

"The principal and professors, or a majority of them, shall be called and styled the faculty of the college, which faculty shall have the power of enforcing the rules and regulations, adopted by the trustees for the government of the pupils, by rewarding them or censuring them, and finally suspending such of them, as after repeated admonitions, shall continue refractory, until the determination of a quorum of trustees can be had; and of granting and confirming, by and with the approbation and consent of a board of trustees signified by their mandamus, such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences, to such pupils of the college, or others, as by their proficiency in learning or meritorious conduct, they shall think entitled to them, as are usually granted and conferred in other colleges, in the United States of America; and to grant to such graduates, diplomas or certificates, under their common seal, and signed by all the faculty," etc.

Under the powers conferred on its Trustees and Faculty by the legislature, there was no question as to the authority of the Jefferson College to graduate and grant diplomas and confer degrees as specified in the act; but the right and power to grant diplomas to graduates of the Jefferson Medical College, either by the Faculty of that institution or of the parent College, was questioned and disputed. What may have been Ingersoll's opinion or counsel on this point is not known, but to remove all doubt as to the right of either the Jefferson College or of the Jefferson Medical College, the Trustees of the former and the Faculty of the latter had immediate recourse to the legislature for the purpose of securing the passage of an enabling act.

But even within the legislative halls of the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania the opposing element continued its fight against the life of the struggling institution, and the battle was long and fierce, and was waged with much zeal. Several times while the question was pending, it was necessary for both McClellan and Eberle to visit Harrisburg and present their cause before the legislative committees, but in the end their efforts were rewarded with success, although the first commencement exercises were delayed beyond the time originally set for them.

In connection with the proceedings resorted to by the Faculty to secure favorable legislative enactment, Dr. Atlee, then a student of Lancaster, in an address delivered about thirty years ago, related the following incident, which is not only interesting but also tends to show something of George

McClellan's vigorous determination when he was resolved upon the accomplishment of a certain object. Atlee said:

"In the spring of 1826, nearly half a century ago, four young medical students were assembled in the office of Dr. John L. Atlee, of Lancaster, for the purpose of forming a quizzing club. Quietly engaged in our deliberations, we were suddenly disturbed by a startling rap at the door. In a moment a young man, breathless and excited, bounded into our midst. He was a stranger to us, but our preceptor, soon entering, recognized him as a classmate and introduced us severally by name. His features were strongly marked, his gray, penetrating eyes deeply set, and his tongue and body were in constant motion. He seemed to be the embodiment of strong will, indomitable energy and determination, and every action of his small, wiry frame bore the impress of a restless and vigorous brain. At the door stood a sulky, with a sweating, panting horse, which he had driven without mercy over sixty miles that very day, having left Philadelphia the same morning. He *must* be in Harrisburg, thirty-six miles beyond, that night. His horse could go no farther. He *must* have another. * * * My preceptor's horse and sulky were soon at the door and at his service. Hector, a noble animal, did his work well that momentous night, and before twenty-four hours had elapsed after he had left Philadelphia, this young 'M. D.' was hammering at the door of our legislature! His mission in Harrisburg was soon accomplished, and, as before, he arrived in Lancaster at night. It was very dark, yet, in spite of all remonstrances, he ordered out his horse and off he flew for Philadelphia. He had driven but a few miles when, while dashing along, he upset in the highway. Here was a predicament from which he could not extricate himself without assistance. It was night and the honest country people were in bed. After repeated halloos a farmer made his appearance with a lantern, which threw some light on the dismal scene. Quite naturally, the farmer began to inquire into all the particulars of the accident instead of at once attempting to right the difficulties. 'Come, come, good friend, that won't do. Let us put our shoulder to the wheel and leave explanations until another time.' Things were soon put in driving order, and the next day the charter of the 'Medical Department of Jefferson College' was in the city of Philadelphia." "Need I say," adds Atlee, "that this genius was young McClellan?"

In the latter part of 1825 the Trustees of Jefferson College had made application to the legislature for an act extending their powers under the charter of their institution, but owing to the slow operation of the bill, and the opposition to it, the supplementary act did not become a law until April 7, 1826. The bill was approved by Governor Shultze on that day, and just one week later, on April 14, the first Jefferson Medical College Commencement was held.

The act of April 7, 1826, was the first legislation in relation to the Jefferson Medical College, and it gave life to the institution. In ratifying all that had been done by the parent College, and in giving permanency to all that had been thus far accomplished by the Faculty of the Medical Department, the act was of vital importance. On the determination of the legislature, and the subsequent action of the Governor, hung the fate of the Medical Department of the College, and it was only natural that the members of the Faculty should feel a deep interest in the measure. The following is the full text of the act:

AN ACT

Supplementary to the act, entitled "An act for the establishment of a college at Canonsburg, in the county of Washington, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

WHEREAS, It is represented by the trustees of Jefferson College, at Canonsburg, in the county of Washington, that the said college has appointed professors in the customary branches of medical education, who have commenced a course of public instruction to students of medicine, at the city of Philadelphia, and that such instruction tends to the cultivation of useful knowledge, and to advance the interests of this State:

THEREFORE,

Sect. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees of the said Jefferson College, to elect ten additional trustees, who may be residents of the city or county of Philadelphia, which additional trustees, or six of them, may be appointed by the general board of trustees of the said college; a committee to superintend the medical department, giving instruction, in the city of Philadelphia, with such powers as to the appointments and removal of trustees, the holding public commencements, and conferring degrees, as the said general board may direct; and the said general board of trustees of Jefferson College, at Canonsburg, shall have full power to remove the additional trustees, or any of them, or any of the medical professors, at their will and pleasure, anything in the original act incorporating the said college to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided, however,* That no degree of doctor in medicine, shall be conferred by the said additional trustees, unless the candidate shall be twenty-one years of age, and shall actually have studied medicine for the term of three years, under the direction of some respectable practitioner, of which and of his age the candidate shall produce proper certificates, and shall have attended at least two full courses on anatomy, surgery, practice of medicine, materia medica, midwifery and chemistry, one or both of which courses shall be at this, or one full course at this or another full course on the same branches at

some other respectable college in the United States, and shall have proved his actual proficiency by passing creditably a strict examination before the medical professors of the said college.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the oath of office required by the eighth section of the act to which this is a supplement, may be taken before any judge of the supreme court or president of a court of common pleas within this state.

Sect. 3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no student shall be required to pay any matriculating fee, nor shall any be demanded for signatures of the diplomas of the graduates; no professor shall require more than fifteen dollars from each student for attendance on his course by lectures for the season, and no student shall be required to pay any fee for attendance on a third course.

Sect. 4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the third section of the act to which this is a supplement, shall be and hereby is so far amended, that hereafter senior members of the general board of trustees shall form a quorum for the transaction of the business and concerns of the said college.

Sect. 5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the legislature reserves to itself the right of altering, amending or repealing the provisions of this act.

JOSEPH RITNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ALEXANDER MAHON,
Speaker of the Senate.

Approved the seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six.

J. ANDREW SHULTZE.